Statement-II

Import of edible Oil by NDDB

Year	Quantity (in MT)	Average Rate (in Rs. per MT)
1990-91	73658	15652
1991-92	20301	20095
1992-93	19421	21204
1993-94	1040	23462
1994-95	Details not available	

Cess on cotton

4019. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cess on cotton alongwith other commodities was abolished by an Act of Parliament in 1987 and that the collection of cess was discontinued thereafter;

(b) if so, the reasons for creating the post of Assistant Director (Cotton cess) in September, 1994 in the office of the Directorate of Cotton Development, *Bombay;* and

(c) whether Government propose to institute any inquiry into the circumstances necessitating the creating of the post; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No such post was created in the Directorate of Cotton Development in September, 1994.

(c) Does not arise.

Study by NCAER on Economic Situation of Tobacco Workers

4020. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE he pleased to state :

(a) whether any study has been commissioned through NCAER on the economic situation of tobacco workers and far-mers in Karnataka;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the proposed legislation will be detrimental to the farming economy; and

(c) how will Government assess the outcome of its legislative proposals to restrict tobacco in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The proposed legislation by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare aims at curbing sale/consumption of tobacco in specific public places and ban tobacco advertisement keeping in view the likely health hazards to tobacco consumers. It does not intend to ban tobacco farming.

Nominal increase in the price of wheat

4021. SHRI H1PHEI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an increase of Rs. 10 in the price of wheat has been termed as 'Cruel Joke' by the farmers in view of hike in electricity charges and fertilizers prices;

(b) whether Government propose to pro vide them adequate increase in wheat price; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?